

Women's Clubs and Their Work

Edited by Mrs. Sarah A. Evans

RECENTLY the Seattle Sunday Times put the following question to the club women of the city: "What would you do if you were mayor?"

The answers are so varied, many of them so humorous and most of them so full of good common sense, to say nothing of the suggestiveness of all of them, we quote a number for Oregon club women to enjoy and think over.

Mr. Sarah Pratt Carr, author of "The Iron Way," in replying to the question, said: "Probably an archangel from heaven would have difficulty with the city council, especially if he were an honest archangel with ideas, but anyway, if I were mayor, I would require all vendors of such foodstuffs as cannot be scrubbed or peeled to have them covered, and I'd disfranchise every voter who failed to vote, as well as every one who sold his vote. Government has too long been looked at as a privilege. It is an obligation.

Florence Roney Weir: "When I am mayor I shall hunt through the laws with a gleaming eye for some chance to punish drivers who lash their horses up the hills just for the sake of seeing the poor beast strain, sweat and fall upon bleeding knees. I shall endeavor to pass an ordinance that these men be punished by being hitched to grocers' wagons and driven by the average grocer boy, who loves to sit high and feel the wind whiz by his ears while he dreams that he is speeding his auto through Georgetown. I shall heartily thank any editor who has manliness or heart enough to take up the cause of the poor dumb beast in an editorial. And in the end I shall spend a good deal of time in being thankful that it is Seattle that is an mayor of instead of Kansas City or New York or Chicago. When you are mayor of a place you have to live there more or less and think of Chicago! Oh, think of Chicago, and poor James Hamilton Lewis!

Mrs. I. H. Jennings: "If I were mayor I would immediately ask the city to appropriate \$50,000 for the erection of a club building for the Seattle Federation of Women's Clubs on their present property.

Dr. Sarah Kendall: "I would have sash curtains put at the windows of the barber shops on the main streets and I would urge that flowers and shrubs be grown in window boxes the full length of First and Second avenues, following the architecture of the buildings, at least during the A.-Y.-P. fair.

Mrs. Thomas A. Parish: "Good roads, wide streets and beautiful lawns and gardens—these are things I would give attention to if I were mayor.

Mrs. David A. Mitchell: "If I were mayor, I would enforce all the laws for one week, and then I would spend the rest of my term in a sanitarium.

Miss Margaret Bayne, the Democratic candidate for county superintendent of schools: "I would institute a system of public baths for children on both sound and lame. I would have all Alki Point beach condemned, and made into a city park, and I would have the store awnings raised so that they wouldn't bump my hat.

Dr. Maud Parker: "If I were mayor I would increase a few things, such as the Cedar river water supply, the street sweeping force and the mayor's salary. I would encourage the use of vacant lots for children's gardens and some day, when I had brain-fog, I think I would go up and scrub out the city jail, a la Rusklin, who once said: "I have today scrubbed down the steps of the Savoy Inn, which steps have not been scrubbed down since they were first gone up, and I have painted a better picture than for many a month."

Mrs. Elizabeth Wardall: "If I were

mayor, I would feel like the mother-in-law family, and I would exercise more patience and charity to the unfortunate and vicious than to the successful, intelligent class. If, as the male lawmakers tell us, a red-light district is necessary to protect respectable womanhood, then I would give those most burdened of women, those women driven like dumb cattle, the pleasant part of the city; furnish them apartments, pension them when they lost their beauty and erect monuments in their honor at their death, as the greatest martyrs of the race. If, as the male lawmakers tell us, a saloon is a necessary business factor and inspiration, I would question the advisability of closing them on Sunday.

Mrs. William LeRoy Baird, president of the Schubert club: "I would secure an appropriation for a municipal pipe organ; then, when Mrs. Fiske brings in the coast classic like 'Rosmerholm,' we won't have to go down to Portland to see it.

Mrs. Edith DeL. Jarmuth: "I would call for a report from Bill Gill on the treaty of peace proceedings between him and Dr. Matthews, and ask the city council to ratify it, and I would erect statues on the school grounds to these noble gentlemen as an example to our young of rectitude and love.

Mrs. Charles Elbridge Parker: "I would have the streets made so as not to jolt the baby carriage twice in every block.

Mrs. C. M. Miller: "If I were a councilman, one of the improvements for which I would urge the city to develop streets so constructed that the average woman, especially those of us who are not five feet eight, could get on and off the cars comfortably.

Mrs. C. E. Bogardus: "Let us grow along natural lines. Plan a playground for at least every addition to develop the nerve and muscle of the youth. Let us restore, in a measure, in parks for our city beautiful, what we have lost in the destruction of our forest beautiful.

Mrs. Louise Kangley: "If I were mayor and had a chalmers (which I think I wouldn't have), I would not parade them on the streets, but would send them to work to clear the city jail.

Mrs. Ellen S. Leckenby: "I would provide a recreation pier on the waterfront, which would be a source of pleasure to citizens and a pleasant welcome to strangers. It would only be a fitting entrance to Seattle, the city beautiful.

Mrs. Milo J. Loveless: "If I were mayor (and had a wide-awake city council), I would limit height of buildings, tear down the billboards and appoint a commissioner of civic decoration and architecture, with the idea of making this city the Athens of the Pacific coast.

Dr. Cora Smith Eaton, treasurer of the State Suffrage association: "I would have smoke consuming apparatus installed throughout the city.

Mrs. L. C. Shuff: "I would permit a physician called in emergency to run his automobile under the same rules as apply to fire apparatus. I would cause the trees and shrubbery growing along the sidewalk to be kept trimmed so as not to interfere with the hats and garments of pedestrians, and, lastly, I would run the city so that at the end of my administration there would not be howling need for a grand jury investigation.

Mrs. Leonia W. Brown: "I would try to run the city so that at the end of my administration there would not be howling need for a grand jury investigation.

Mr. Frank W. Cotterill: "I would try to make it possible for a working girl to have time to wash her clothes and do her mending on some other day besides Sunday, by using my influence to get them an eight-hour day law.

Mr. Christy Koester: "If I were mayor I would appoint Bill Gill city

bacteriologist, Hillman park commissioner, Eugene library board, Matthews game warden and sergeant-at-arms of the mothers' council, and Humphries chief of police.

Mrs. Ellen S. Fish, president of the Century club: "Wherever the home, the child or the city beautiful is to be directly or indirectly affected, I would take particular and unprejudiced care in appointing the boards and commissions, and would incline on each at least one competent cultured woman.

Mrs. W. P. Harper, president of Seattle's Federation of Women's clubs: "I would do exactly as I believe, or present mayor is doing, the very best I could under the existing circumstances.

Miss Flora Huntley: "If I were mayor of Seattle I should look upon the city as the housewife looks upon her home, and would do all I could to make it a clean, beautiful city. I would have the streets sprinkled or flooded daily during the dusty season. I would compel streetcars, wagons and automobiles to use all known devices for preventing noise, and would tax the advertisement by the square inch and prohibit illustrated signs altogether.

Mrs. E. M. Ringler: "If I were mayor I would accept an invitation to address the women's clubs, and when all the women were assembled, I would ask them to state their aims and objects, and when they had finished I would tell them they could not accomplish these things until they were allowed to vote. From that time, I would devote my every energy securing the privilege and the ballot for women.

Mrs. Nellie Mitchell Flick: "If I were mayor I would try to develop the city as the suggestion of Walt Whitman, as to what the greatest city will be: "Where the slave ceases, and the master of the slave ceases, and the man of the poplar rises at once against the never-ending audacity of persons; Where fierce men and women pour forth, as the sea to the whistle of death pours its sweeping and unrip waves; Where outside authority enters always after the precedence of inside authority; Where the citizen is always the head and ideal—and president, mayor, governor and what not are agents for pay; Where children are taught, to be laws to themselves and to depend upon themselves; Where women walk in public processions in the streets the same as men; Where they enter the public assembly, and take places the same as the men; Where the city of the faithfulest friends stand; Where the city of the cleanliness of the sexes stands; Where the city of the healthiest fathers stands; Where the city of the best-bodied mothers stands; There the great city stands."

DEPARTMENT work will be a prominent feature in the Woman's club, the coming winter. Most of the departments have made out the entire program for the year, and in looking them over it is evident that unusually strong and effective work is to be done. Last year a great step in advance was made when the department of English literature decided to lay aside amateur work and employ a professional instructor, and as will be remembered, Dr. C. H. Chapman gave a highly instructive course of lectures on the modern drama. Dr. Chapman has again been engaged by the department, and the business men of Salem made it possible after

without waiting for legislative action. Some woman who voted in territorial days will offer her name to be registered at the clerk's office and if she is refused an action in mandamus will be brought to compel the clerk to register her. And on election day some woman living in the country where registration is not required will demand the privilege of voting, and if she is refused, an action in damages will be brought against the election officers. These actions will then be carried through the state courts and if they are unsuccessful one of both of them will be carried to the highest tribunal in the land.

Many of Seattle's women were voters in the territorial days. Among them are: Mrs. Amos Brown, Mrs. Agnes Markinson, Mrs. Orange Jacobs, Mrs. Parkhurst, Miss Nora Denn, Mrs. Homer H. Hill, Mrs. E. C. Moore, Mrs. Jessie Savage and Mrs. Roger S. Green.

Women who have visited the fair in previous years know how grateful they would have been to find a quiet nook wherein to lay a sleepy child or rest themselves, away from the public gaze, for a few minutes, and it is only to give this comfort the club women are there. It is hoped many will take advantage of this privilege.

At a recent meeting of the Colony club discussed the questions of suffrage and Socialism. Many prominent women were present, the duchess of Marlborough among them, and Mrs. Clarence Mackay came in with such well known suffragists as Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Edgerton Winthrop Jr., Mrs. Richard Irwin, Mrs. Elizabeth Murray, Miss Anne Morgan, Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Mrs. Richard Aldrich was the speaker for suffrage, opening the debate, and Mrs. Barclay Hazard spoke for anti-suffrage, both reading papers. Mrs. Arthur Dodge and Mrs. Bissell were among the others who took part in the discussion favoring the anti-suffragists.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the International Woman Suffrage alliance; Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch, Mrs. Ida Husted Harper and Mrs. Henry Villard were among the speakers for woman's suffrage. Mrs. Charlotte Willbour and Miss Mary Garrett Hay were prominent suffrage women present. Miss Ida Tarbell presided.

The Chicago Press league gave a unique luncheon not long ago. The invitations stated that it was to be a "beauty luncheon," and was to be held at the Auditorium hotel, and was in honor of Miss Ethel Barrymore.

After a delightful and elaborate menu was disposed of the "beauty" part was announced by the toast mistress, Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, honorary president of the league, who proposed a toast to "beauty" which was responded to by Mrs. F. K. Bowes, and then these other toasts followed:

"To the American Beauty Rose," Mrs. O. L. Blair; "Beauty in Art," Mrs. C. T. Moffitt; "Beauty in Music," Mrs. Willis Moore; "Beauty in Literature," Mrs. Mary Moncreaf Parker; "Beauty in Mirth," Mrs. E. M. Varis; "Beauty in Patriotism," Mrs. La Verne Noyes; "Beauty in Politics," Rev. Florence Buck; "Beauty in Friendship," Mrs. William C. Foster.

The guests of honor were Miss Ethel Barrymore and Mrs. Marshall Field.

MANY Seattle women believe, says the Sunday Times, that the present laws of this state give the women the right to vote. The territorial laws granting suffrage to women have never been repealed. The women were barred from voting by two adverse court decisions. One of these has since been reversed by the state supreme court and the other, which involved a federal question, was not presented to the federal court. As the state constitution preserved the right to vote to those who possessed it at the time the constitution was made, the women claim that if both these court decisions are overthrown they still have the franchise. At least they are determined to try the question out again, this time, if need be, to the United States supreme court.

The Equal Suffrage League of Colingdale and Professional are behind this effort to re-establish the political rights of women in the state.

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